

Committee on Resources

Subcommittee on Water & Power

Witness Statement

**TESTIMONY OF
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SECRETARY FOR RESOURCES
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES**

JUNE 29, 2000

Introduction

Thank you for inviting me here today to testify in support of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. I want to thank the Subcommittee members for your continued support for the Program, and look forward to working with you, Deputy Secretary Hayes and the federal team, and the stakeholder community in California to ensure its success.

Deputy Secretary Hayes has outlined the key elements of the Framework in his testimony, and the CALFED staff has prepared extensive briefing materials, so I will focus my comments on the State's role and the need for continued federal support and funding for the Program.

Importance to the Davis Administration

First, I want to emphasize the importance of the CALFED Program to the Davis Administration. As the Governor said when the Framework was issued,

“Today California is launching the largest and most comprehensive ecosystem restoration and water management program in the world.... As Governor of this State, I am proud of what we have accomplished and I will make it my business to ensure that this effort is carried out in a balanced, responsible manner.”

We understand that many interests continue to have concerns about specific elements of the CALFED Plan, but we believe that the Plan as a whole will attract broad-based, bipartisan support. It is a comprehensive plan, with a detailed set of actions and timelines for each program. It is a balanced plan. It is the largest and most complex ecosystem restoration program in the nation. It is the most aggressive water conservation program ever attempted. It is the most ambitious effort to improve drinking water quality in the State's

history. And it is the most significant investment in storage and conveyance in decades.

The Plan will not be implemented overnight. And there will continue to be conflicts over competing uses of Delta supplies, particularly in the next several years until new storage and conveyance projects are built, and until the system's fisheries are clearly on the path to recovery. But this Plan provides a framework for addressing those conflicts through a sustained, long-term effort by the CALFED agencies and stakeholder groups.

Need for Federal Support and Funding

The Plan will not be successful, however, without adequate funding from state, federal, and local sources. I want to thank the Subcommittee for its past support of the Program, and urge your support for the President's request for \$60 million in the FY2001 budget. This appropriation is essential to maintain momentum behind the Program, and to support a balanced set of projects and programs that are vital to the economy and environment of California.

As you may know, the State's share of funding will be provided through several sources:

- Proposition 13, enacted earlier this year, includes \$250 million for implementation of the CALFED Program, \$180 million in interim water quality and water supply reliability projects, \$200 million in groundwater storage projects, and a broad range of programs to improve water quality, water use efficiency, and the health of our watersheds.
- Proposition 204, enacted in 1996, provided \$60 million for ecosystem restoration projects, and will make available an additional \$390 million upon certification of the Record of Decision, and
- the Governor included \$155 million in the State's budget this coming year to support the Environmental Water Account, the Integrated Storage Investigation, and other key elements of the program.

Taken together, these commitments represent an extraordinary and unprecedented investment in the State's water management system.

We recognize that the federal government has also made a substantial commitment to the CALFED program. The FY2001 appropriation will provide the fourth year of federal funding. The President's budget request and an extension of the CALFED authorization, therefore, are essential to maintain the federal share and commitment to the Program.

Thank you again for your continued support and leadership. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

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